

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

DEPENDENCY OF POOR PEOPLE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, most Canadians have come to believe that because of the improvement and extension of our social welfare programs, Canadians in need, those who are hungry or do not have clothing, have their needs met by one of the federal, provincial or municipal programs. Unfortunately, that has not happened in recent years. An increasing number of people are finding that to obtain food and clothing, they now have to depend upon charitable organizations.

Recently the Anglican Church issued a report showing that 200,000 people in Vancouver depend upon charitable food banks. A recent report on the National News on CBC reported a similar situation for farm families in Saskatchewan.

I call upon the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) to meet with his provincial colleagues to establish a task force to see what is the situation, how many people are in need, and how many people are not having their basic necessities met through Government programs, and to plan to meet those needs through Government support rather than through charitable sources.

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[Translation]

TOURISM

IMPORTANCE TO THE ECONOMY

Mr. Fernand Ladouceur (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, there is a sector in Canada which deserves our particular attention because of its economic impact and the jobs it generates.

This particular sector injects nearly \$20 billion in our economy, it employs over 600,000 people and it covers 60,000 businesses located across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am referring to our tourist industry, a sector which should be given the status it deserves, in addition to our recognition of its dynamic role in our economy.

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the National Conference on Tourism Tomorrow, with more than 300 participants from the tourist industry, including the private sector and the various levels of government. The conference reflected this Government's commitment to co-operation, consultation, research and consensus, and more specifically, its commitment to preparing consistent policies for the development of this industry. Once again, the conference came across as tangible proof of our Government's will to demonstrate to all Canadians the importance of sensible participation in developing reality-oriented policies.

S.O. 22

[English]

CO-OPERATIVES

FIRST MEETING OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, this is National Co-op Week in Canada. It is a significant week for Canadians when one considers that 43 per cent of all Canadians over 18 years of age belong to at least one co-op. In my home Province of Saskatchewan, 78 per cent of the adult population belongs to at least one co-op. Therefore it is appropriate that the highlight of National Co-op Week, an historic, first-ever meeting of federal and provincial Ministers responsible for co-operatives will take place tomorrow in Regina.

Co-ops are a mainstay of Canada's economy and society. In effect they form a third sector of the economy. There are financial, agricultural, housing, consumer, retail, energy, artistic, and manufacturing co-ops, to name just a few. Co-operatives are active in local, domestic, and international markets. Co-operative management education is a new and rapidly expanding field in many universities across Canada, including the University of Saskatchewan in my own riding of Saskatoon East.

My hon. colleague, the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer), who is also responsible for Canadian co-operatives, has developed an excellent rapport with co-ops from coast to coast. They know that our Government recognizes, appreciates, and wholeheartedly supports the essential jobs and services which co-ops contribute to our economy. I wish my hon. colleague every success in the meeting with his provincial counterparts.

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PETRO-CANADA

OPPOSITION TO ACQUISITION OF GULF

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, the dishes are flying in the Tory kitchen, and Canadians are justifiably upset with the Government.

I should like to read a letter which I just received from a person living in Calgary who, by mistake, thought that I was a Tory Member of Parliament. Heaven forbid that that would ever happen. It reads:

I am returning my sustaining membership card in the PC Party, suitably mutilated in the form of a double cross to protest the hypocritical action recently taken by the Government to further expand commercial activities by approving Petro Can's purchase of Gulf's marketing department.

Despite trying to mask your actions in a cloak of Canadianism, the issue is simple. The Government or its Crown corporations has no more business selling gasoline than it does selling groceries—

You have broken faith with those who voted for and supported the PCs as a party of free enterprise. The question now is: Are you honest enough to admit making a mistake, and are you courageous enough to reverse the action?—